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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0013
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000894

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EUR/NCE FOR ERIC FICHTE, WHA/CCA

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [VT](#) [XM](#) [XS](#) [CU](#) [EU](#) [JA](#) [EZ](#)
SUBJECT: CZECHS DO NOT RECOGNIZE RAUL CASTRO AS A
LEGITIMATE SUCCESSOR

REF: STATE 125684

Classified By: Acting Political-Economic Counselor
Karen C. Reider for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[11](#). (C) Poloff met with Czech MFA Director of the Americas Department Jakub Skalnik on August 2 to discuss Czech views on Fidel Castro's temporary transfer of power to Raul Castro. Skalnik said the Czechs share the U.S. view that only a democratically elected leader would be the legitimate successor of Castro. Hence, the Czechs do not recognize Raul Castro as his brother's successor.

[12](#). (C/NF) Skalnik said not all EU member states share this view. He explained that the EU conducted working level meetings in early July to discuss possible mid- and long-term strategies for promoting democracy in Cuba. The Czechs supported only those scenarios that would lead to the establishment of a pluralistic democracy, and the development of a society that supports human rights. However, according to Skalnik, many EU members think the most likely post-Castro scenario will be a succession of power to Raul Castro or some other regime insider. To those EU members, a "successful succession" would be a peaceful transfer of power to such a hand-picked leader.

[13](#). (C/NF) Skalnik did not say which EU members would accept Raul Castro as a legitimate successor, but he did express dismay that Belgium (and less surprisingly, Spain) had planned to congratulate Castro on his August 13 birthday.
CABANISS